



REMARKS

Currently claims 1 through 20 remain pending in the present application, including independent claims 1, 11, and 17. The claims are directed to a window shutter.

In the Office Action, independent claims 1, 11, and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,848,505 to Taylor. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

For example, representative of all the independent claims, claim 1 requires:

A first channel member and a second channel member...having a U-shaped cross-section and being made from a metal, said first channel member being placed over said first vertical end portion and said first rear vertical support, said second channel member being placed over said second vertical end portion and said second rear vertical support.

Thus, all of the claims require channel members as shown particularly in Figs. 1-3 that, as stated on pages 3 and 4 of the specification, are made from metal and consolidate the construction of the shutter.

In comparison, Taylor fails to disclose or teach channel members as defined in the claims having a U-shaped cross-section that are placed over vertical end portions. Instead, Taylor teaches forming vertical side members 11 that define a square-shaped channel for accommodating an aluminum rod 14. As opposed to the presently pending claims, the vertical side members are not made from a metal but, instead, are made from an extruded polyvinyl chloride. As such, Taylor fails to anticipate any of the currently pending claims.

Further, it would not have been obvious to construct the vertical side members in Taylor from a metal. In particular, Taylor teaches "hiding" the aluminum rod 14 within the housing of the shutter so that the entire exterior surface of the shutter is made from polyvinyl chloride. As such, it is believed that Taylor also fails to render obvious any of the currently pending claims.

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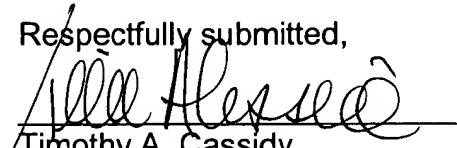
In summary, applicants respectfully submit that the presently pending claims patentably define over the prior art of record and are in complete condition for allowance. Favorable action, therefore, is respectfully requested. Should any issues remain after consideration of this amendment, then Examiner Rhee is invited and encouraged to telephone the undersigned in order to hopefully expedite prosecution.

Please charge any additional fees required by this Amendment to Deposit Account No. 04-1403.

Aug 25, 2003

Date

Respectfully submitted,


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